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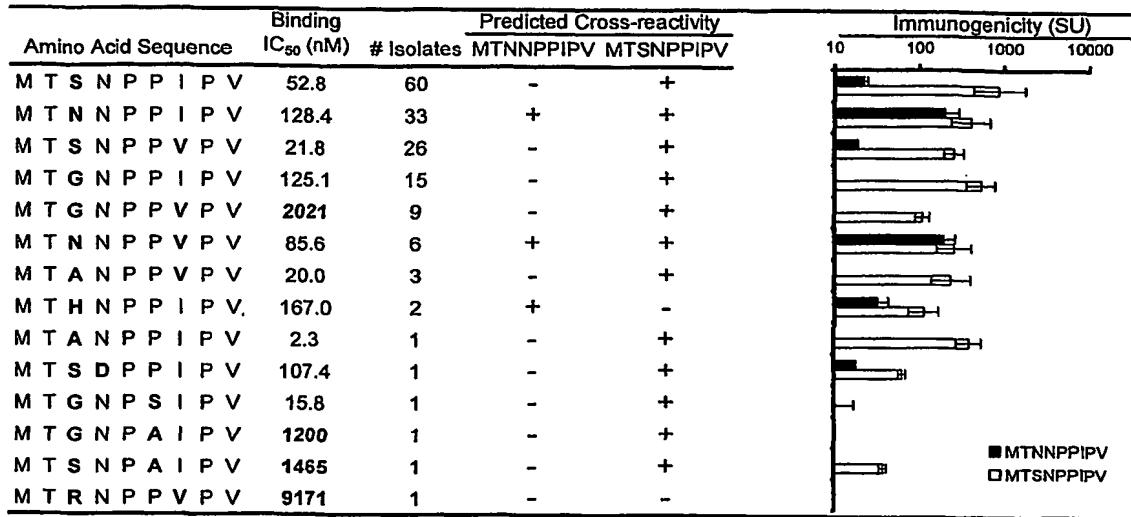
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS OF IDENTIFYING OPTIMAL VARIANTS OF PEPTIDE EPITOPE



(57) Abstract: The present invention is directed to methods for selecting a variant of a peptide epitope which induces a CTL response against another variant(s) of the peptide epitope, by determining whether the variant comprises only conserved residues, as defined herein, at non-anchor positions in comparison to the other variant(s). The present invention is also directed to variants identified by the methods above; peptides comprising such variants; nucleic acids encoding such variants and peptides; cells comprising such variants, and/or peptides, and/or nucleic acids; compositions comprising such variants, and/or peptides, and/or nucleic acids, and/or cells; as well as therapeutic and diagnostic methods for using such variants, peptides, nucleic acids, cells, and compositions.



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